

THE STATE CONVENTION.

THE DEBATE ON THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF STATE OFFICERS—THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO BE ELECTED AT THE SAME TIME WITH THE GOVERNOR—THE OFFICES OF STATE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR ABOLISHED—THE DEBATE ON THE POWERS OF THE LEGISLATURE—ANNUAL SESSIONS TO BE HELD.

MY TELEGRAM TO THE TRIBUNE.

ALBANY, Aug. 29.—The debate upon the election of the Attorney-General was renewed this morning. Mr. George Wm. Curtis and Judge Van Cott made able speeches in favor of appointing that officer, and especially aimed at the charge that this course evinced a distrust of the people. The motion to adjourn was lost by a vote of 50 to 66. The Convention then struck out the entire provision requiring the election of the State Engineer and Surveyor, and substituted in its place a clause, now proposed to be stricken out. There were a great many people who were coming here from foreign parts, who would think that the office of Attorney-General was a desirable one, and they were not hindered from presenting their candidates. It would be a great disservice to the country if the Legislature did not have a good candidate.

Again, there were a large number of men in New York who had laid aside their gray uniforms, and though they had found a place in the country, they did not feel at home in particularities. It was not right to deprive these patriots of the opportunity of running for this high office for the next ten years to come. Again he would go round to speak to the Legislature.

The Yeas and Nays were called upon Mr. Gerry's motion to strike out the ten years provision for Attorney-General, and it was carried by a vote of 60 to 66.

Mr. GOLDBECK (Dem., New York) moved to amend so as to limit the term of office.

Mr. GRIFFELLY (Rep., Westchester) moved to amend by striking out the entire clause in regard to qualifications of Attorney-General.

MR. CURTIS (Dem., Kings) said that a majority of this Convention were lawyers, and it would be indecorous on the part of the Convention to limit the selection by the people to the legal profession.

Mr. GOLDBECK (Rep., New York) called attention to the fact that by the wording of the section, as amended by the gentlemen from New-York and Clinton, it required the Attorney-General not only to be a counselor at law, but also a practical engineer. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT moved that it should be限 a practical engineer.

Mr. GERRY withdrew his amendment.

The amendment offered by Mr. Greeley was then adopted.

Mr. VERPLANCK (Dem., Erie) and Mr. KERNAN (Dem., Oneida) spoke in terms of eulogy of the present Attorney-General (Gen. Martindale), and disclaimed any intention of finding fault with him in the course of the debate.

Mr. POLK (Rep., Onondaga) said if a stranger were to enter New-York and say this Convention had assembled,

he would be told that they were gathered by net of the Legislature "to revise and amend" the Constitution.

If in 1860, the Convention had been convened, he would be told that they were gathered by net of the Legislature "to revise and amend" the Constitution.

Mr. AMHERST (Rep., Cortland) moved to amend by adding a provision for a Department of Statistics and Census, and the appointment of a Superintendent. Withdrew.

Mr. BAILLARD (Rep., Cortland) moved to add a section prohibiting the office of State Engineer and Surveyor after the 1st of January, 1869. Carried.

Mr. CONGER (Dem., Rockland) moved to reconsider this vote. Tabled.

The motion was then adopted, and referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. GLASS (Dem., New York) moved that the consideration of the report of the Committee on the Powers and Duties of the Legislature be postponed until the minority report of the Committee is printed.

A brief debate followed. The Yeas and Nays were called, and the proposition was defeated by a vote of 50 to 66.

Mr. DONALD (Rep., Ontario) moved to amend by striking out the section authorizing the Attorney-General to call the Legislature into session.

Mr. BAKER (Rep., Albany) said he would have found theories in the closet and from history advanced—but only theory. There have been no real complaints made that the plan of electing this officer has been a failure, based on the ground that it has not been carried out.

Mr. HATCH (Dem., Erie) said that the consideration of the report of the Committee on the Powers and Duties of the Legislature was the right one. It makes him independent of the Governor, as he should be. Cases will occur, and one came up last winter, where the Executive and the people's attorney were at variance, and the committee of the Legislature which could not occur if he were a mere creature of the people. There has been no reason whatever advanced for changing this plan that has worked well during past.

Mr. KELLY (Dem., Oneida) favored the election of the Attorney-General.

Mr. GOLD (Rep., Columbia) had been informed on good authority that during the administration of Gov. Elbridge, he never called on the Attorney-General, and always avoided him. When he wanted any advice, he used to go to John C. Spencer for it, and the people of the State paid Mr. Spencer \$600 for this advice. This he did because he could not trust his Attorney-General.

Mr. CURTIS (Dem., Albany) said that the reason, and because of the close affiliation between the Legislature and the Attorney-General, the people have had \$30,000 since 1846 for counsel for the Governor. It is well-known that the Attorney-General is very seldom in his office here at Albany, and he could afford the same sum, and elected one elected the other. This should be remedied by organic law. Again, the country has been startled by rumors of gigantic canal frauds, which investigation is now proceeding.

Mr. GOLDBECK (Rep., Utica) moved to amend by striking out the section authorizing the Attorney-General to call the Legislature into session.

The motion was carried.

Mr. BAKER (Rep., Albany) inquired whether any Governor had ever inured into these alleged frauds.

Mr. GOLD did not know whether he had done so, but supposed he had not, because as the people had not furnished the Governor with any proof, he did not furnish him with any evidence. The Attorney-General, for this very reason, should be appointed by the Executive.

Mr. CURTIS (Rep., Utica) said the theory in regard to the Convention was that if there could be no such government unless every officer directly elected by the people, from the Governor down to the Health Officer, then the Convention was right. When he wanted any advice, he used to go to John C. Spencer for it, and the people of the State paid Mr. Spencer \$600 for this advice. This he did because he could not trust his Attorney-General.

Mr. COOKE (Rep., Ulster) moved to amend by striking out all that referred to the time and place of meeting of the Legislature. Mr. Cooke said that the entire ground covered by the bill was already covered by the Constitution, and he would be most willing to let up if the Convention had not been started.

The motion of Mr. McDonald was carried out of order.

The Convention then went into Committee of the Whole on the Report of the Committee on the Powers and Duties of the Legislature, Mr. Baker (Rep., Chautauque) in the chair. The report provides for biennial sessions of the Legislature.

Mr. BILL (Rep., Jefferson) moved to strike out what referred to biennial sessions in the first article; and also the words "or at such other places as shall be by law directed." He said that he had not been asked to speak on this point, but he had given their delegates no instructions as to those matters. They are not to deprive the people of any rights, or to usurp any powers, but to say to the people, in effect, "We are going to do this."

Mr. KELLY (Rep., Steuben) advocated biennial sessions.

The hour of two having arrived, the Convention took its recess.

The following is the list of absents from the morning session:

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 29.—*Georgia Daily Citizen.*

BALTIMORE, Md., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

BOSTON, Mass., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

CHARLESTON, S. C., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

DALLAS, Tex., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

FRANKFORT, Ky., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

HARTFORD, Conn., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

HARRISBURG, Pa., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

HOLLYWOOD, Fla., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

LAWRENCE, Kan., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

LEXINGTON, Ky., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

LIBERTY, Mo., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

NEW YORK, Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

RIDGEWOOD, N. J., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

TAMPA, Fla., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

TOPEKA, Kan., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

WICHITA, Kan., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

WILMINGTON, Del., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

WILMINGTON, N. C., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

WILMINGTON, N. J., Aug. 29.—*Advertiser.*

WILMINGTON, Del., Aug. 29.—<i